POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 6

September 20, 1940

THE OLD QUARTERLY CONFERENCE, M. P.

In order to give the reader some idea of the prominence and prestige of the Methodist Protestant church in the Greenbrier Valley during the early years of its history, I here make record of some facts gleaned from the old quarterly conference minutes.

Dr. George Brown, pres. of the Pittsburg Conference, was chairman of the quarterly conference of the Pocahontas circuit, held October 21, 1843. The Rev. Greenberry A. Compton was pastor in charge. Members of the quarterly conference were: Joshua Buckley, William Perkins, James Moore, Jesse Cochran, John Bradshaw, David Gibson, David Ocheltree, J. G. McNeill, J. R. McCorkle, William Cochran, Samuel Gay, William Johnson, Robert Rogers, James Bradshaw, John M. Hogsett, Isaac Collins, Abraham Grimes, and Abel Adkins. In reading the "Historical Sketches of Pocahontas County by Wm. T. Price, I learn that these men were among the most prominent and influential citizens of the county at that time.

Some of the early pastors who preached in this valley were: Rev. Richard Walker, Henry Lucas, Greenberry Compton, George Nestor, Daniel K. Helmick, William B. Bolton, John Bolton, Dennis B. Dorsey, J. B. McCormick, D. C. Weese, Oliver Lowther, G. W. Barrett, Dr. Peter D. Laishley, president of the Pittsburg conference, presided at a quarterly conference in 1853, at which times plans were made to build the church on Droop Mountain. The delegate was instructed to secure either William B Bolton, John Bolton ar George G. Westfall as pastor for the ensuing year. The records show that the salary

paid averaged with the best charges of the district.

After examining all of the old records available and making a personal survey of all of the old centers of denominational glory and prestige in the past, I ask many of the older people for an opinion as to the cause of our loss of prestige and leadership, as a denomination, in this Valley. One very intelligent though conservative manreplied," A charge left for years without a pastor, and then supplied with an indifferent quality, is bound to fail." One zealous woman replied, " Other denominations have educated preachersi in their pulpits and we have Sand Diggers from Webster County." The most generally expressed opinion was that,no pastoral leadership during the Civil War and for many years after; then only indifferent supply preachers who were so far below the standard set by the earlier ministers, that the people lost their interest and hope for better things.

From-History of the Methodist Protestant Church in West Virginia--Barnes

Pub. 1926

It seems that in the early days of Methodist Protestantism in the Greenbrier Valley, that one circuit rider preached in all Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties. Sometime later they were divided, and the churches in Pocahontas was divided into two circuits. Those East of Greenbrier river- Beaver Creek, Cummings Creek, Browns Creek, Browns Mountain, Cochrans Creek, Douthards Creek and Burrs Valley were in the Huntersville Circuit. Those west of the river-Droop Mountain, Seebert, Buckeye,

Fairview, Clawson and Pleasant Hill(now Central Union) were in the Marlinton circuit. But the membership became small and some of the appointments were dropped, then the circuits were again united into one and was known as the Pocahontas circuit. They are making an effort to unit Beaver Creek with Cummings Creekand to unite Central Union with some of the other Methodist churches and let the Brethern take over this church.

The church at Beebert is the best building they have, but the surroundings on Droop Mountain are much better cared for and kept more beautiful than those of any of the other churches. The Fairview church has recently been painted and is in avery good state of repair. Central Union has not been entirely finished and there is still an unpaid balance on the church.

Most of these churches have an organ, a wood stove, the pulpit and seats are for the most part hand made, and the floors are bare, but most of them were clean.

You will notice that all of the classes on the Marlinton circuit had very good churches almost from the beginning, while those on the Huntersville circuit had all of their appointments in school houses until after 1928 when two abandoned school houses- Browns Creek and Beaver Creek- were bought and dedicated as churches, and the Cummings Creek church was built in 1933.

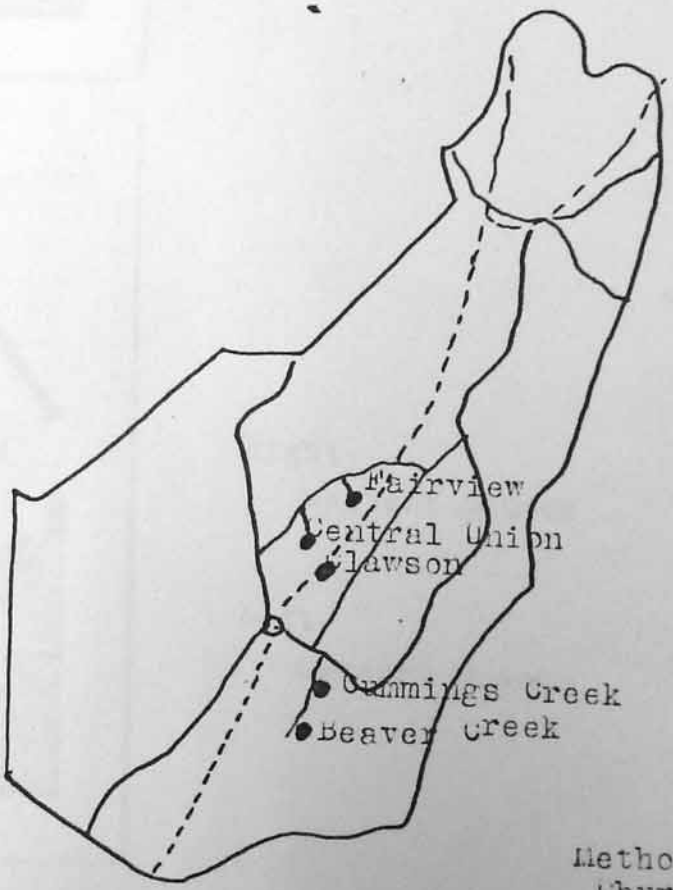
METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCHES

1. Droop Mountain
2. Seebert
3. Beaver Creek
4. Cummings Creek
5. Buckeye
6. Browns Mountain
7. Browns Creek
8. Clawson
9. Central Union
16. Fairview

--------- Greenbrier River

_____ Roads

11. Douthards Creek
12. Cochrans Creek
13. Burrs Valley



Methodist Protestant
Churches that are
still in use

Central Union, Clawson and Beaver Creek are very week churches, and are about to be abandoned as Methodist churches.

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH
OF
POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Droop Mountain

Church

and

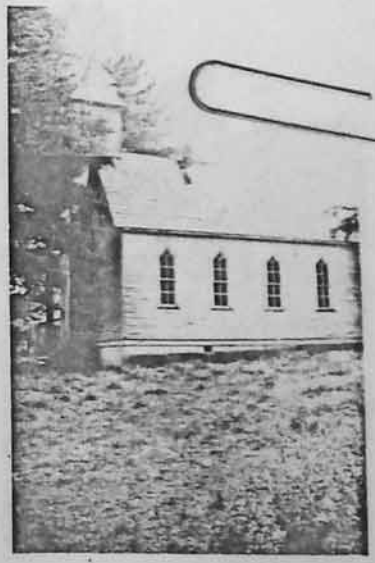
Cemetery

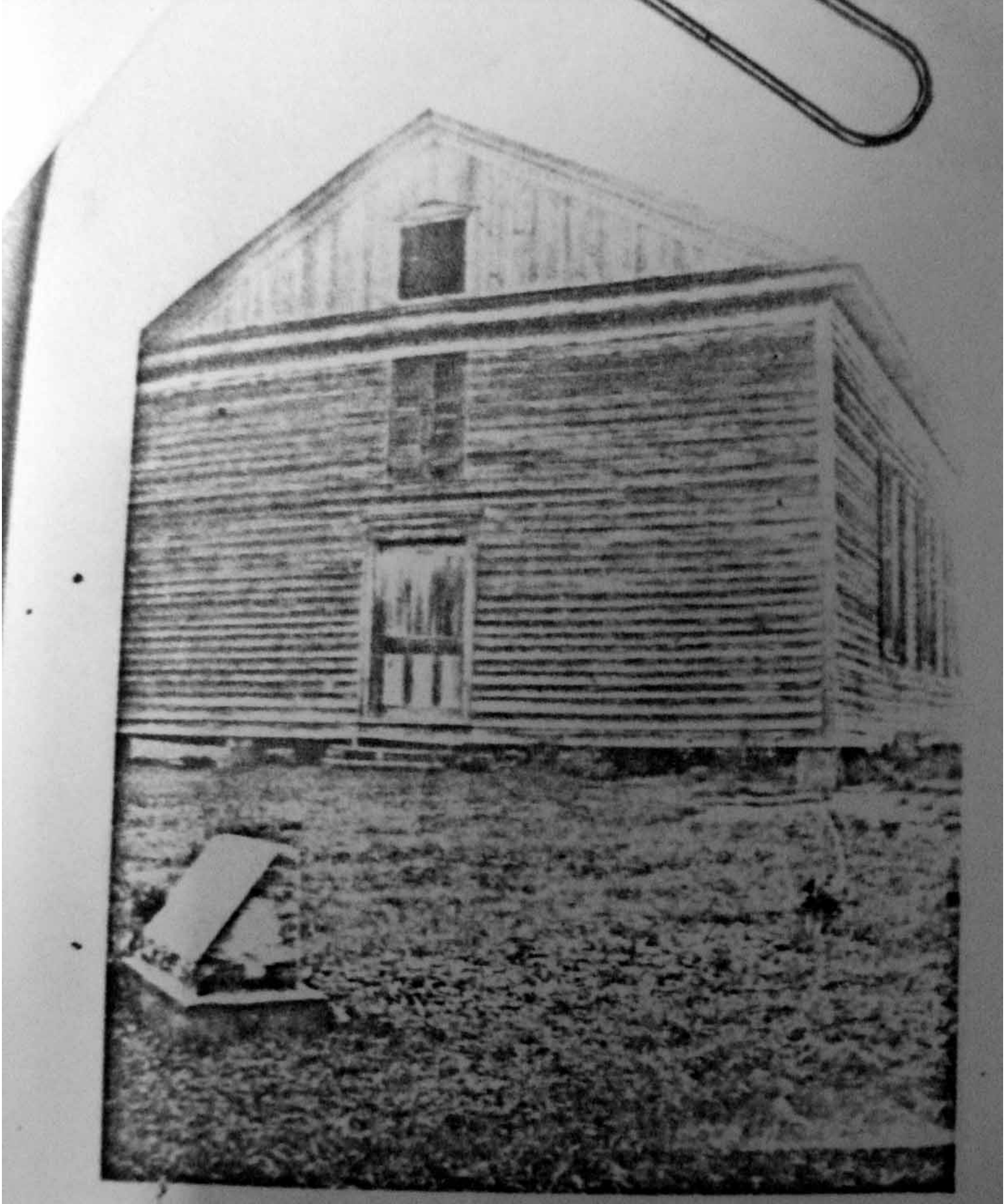
Right-

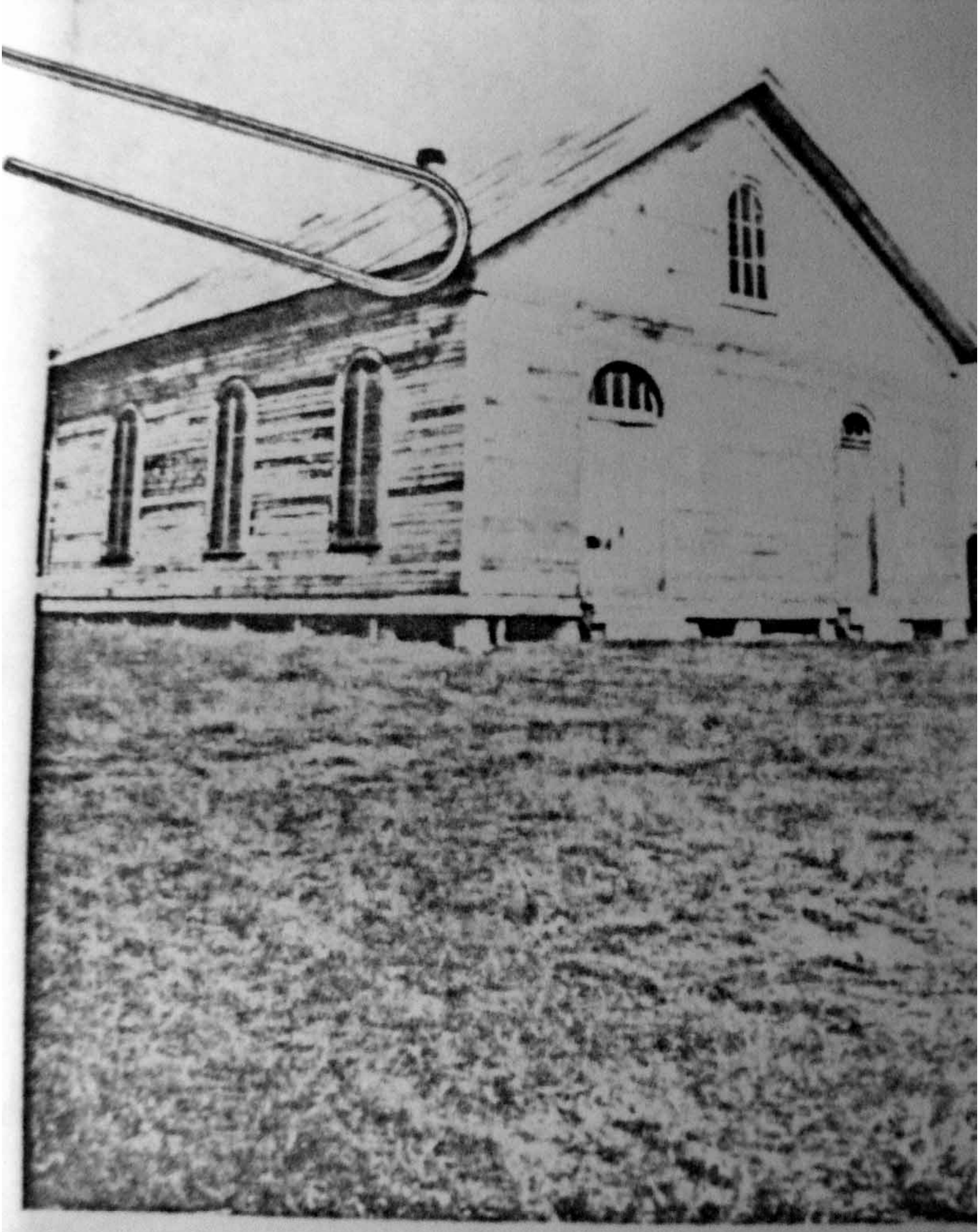
Seebert Church

Left-

Central Union







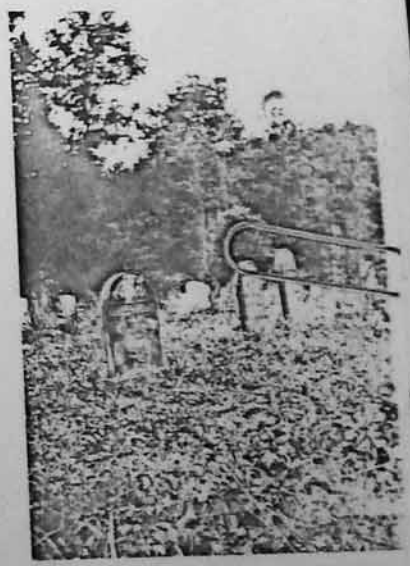
Aug. 26, 1940

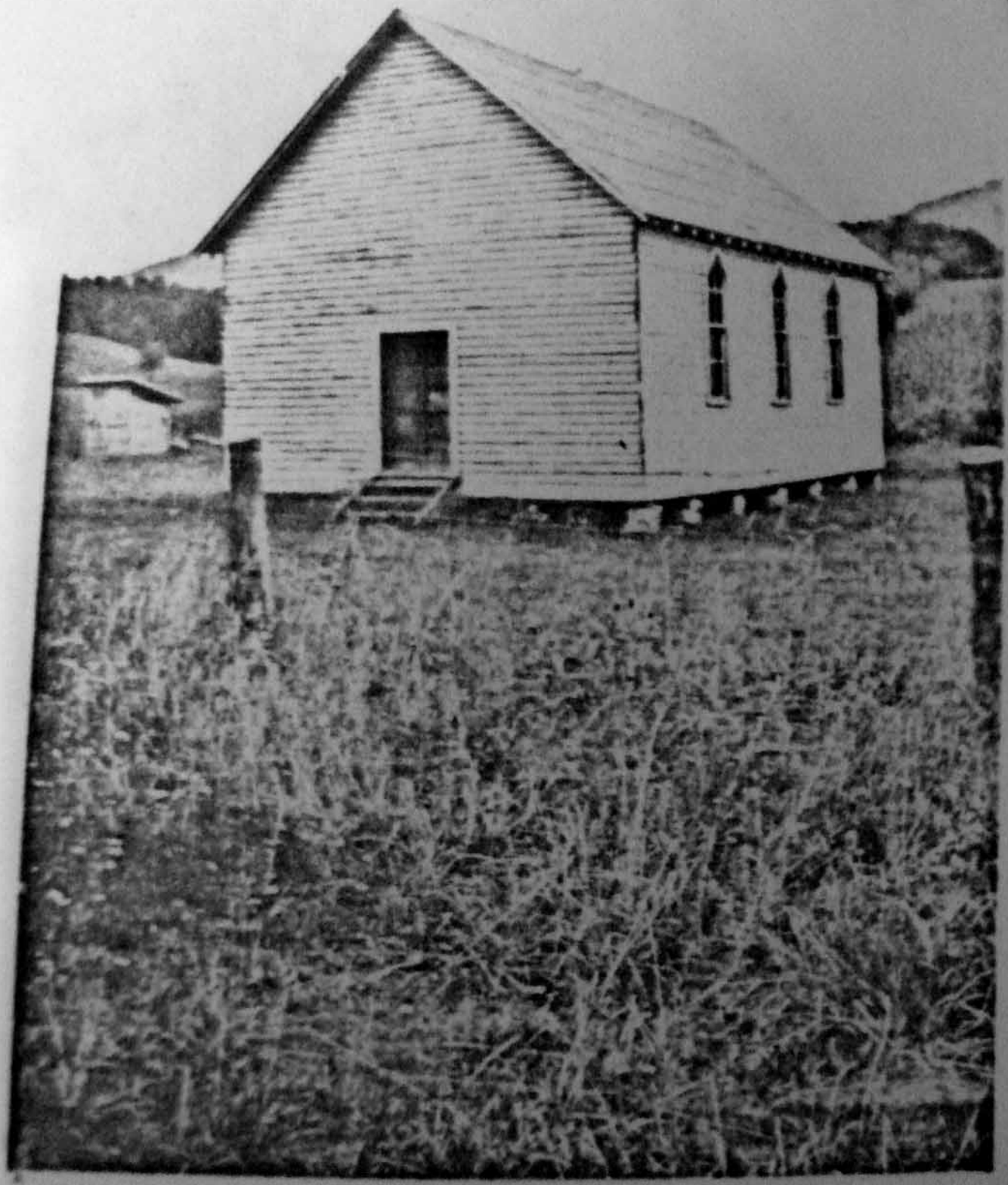
Right-
Bethel Church
Buckeye

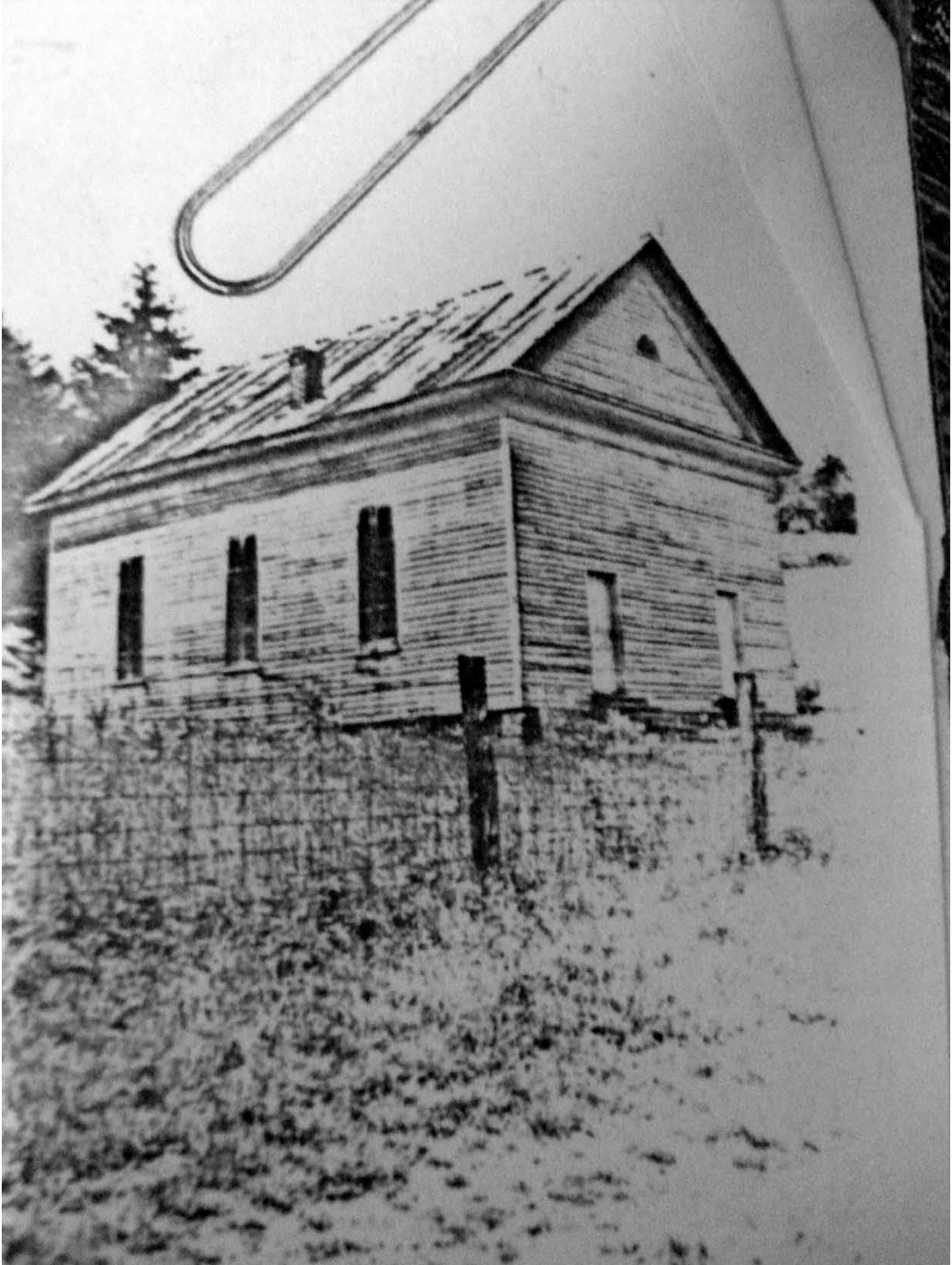
Left-
Cummings Creek

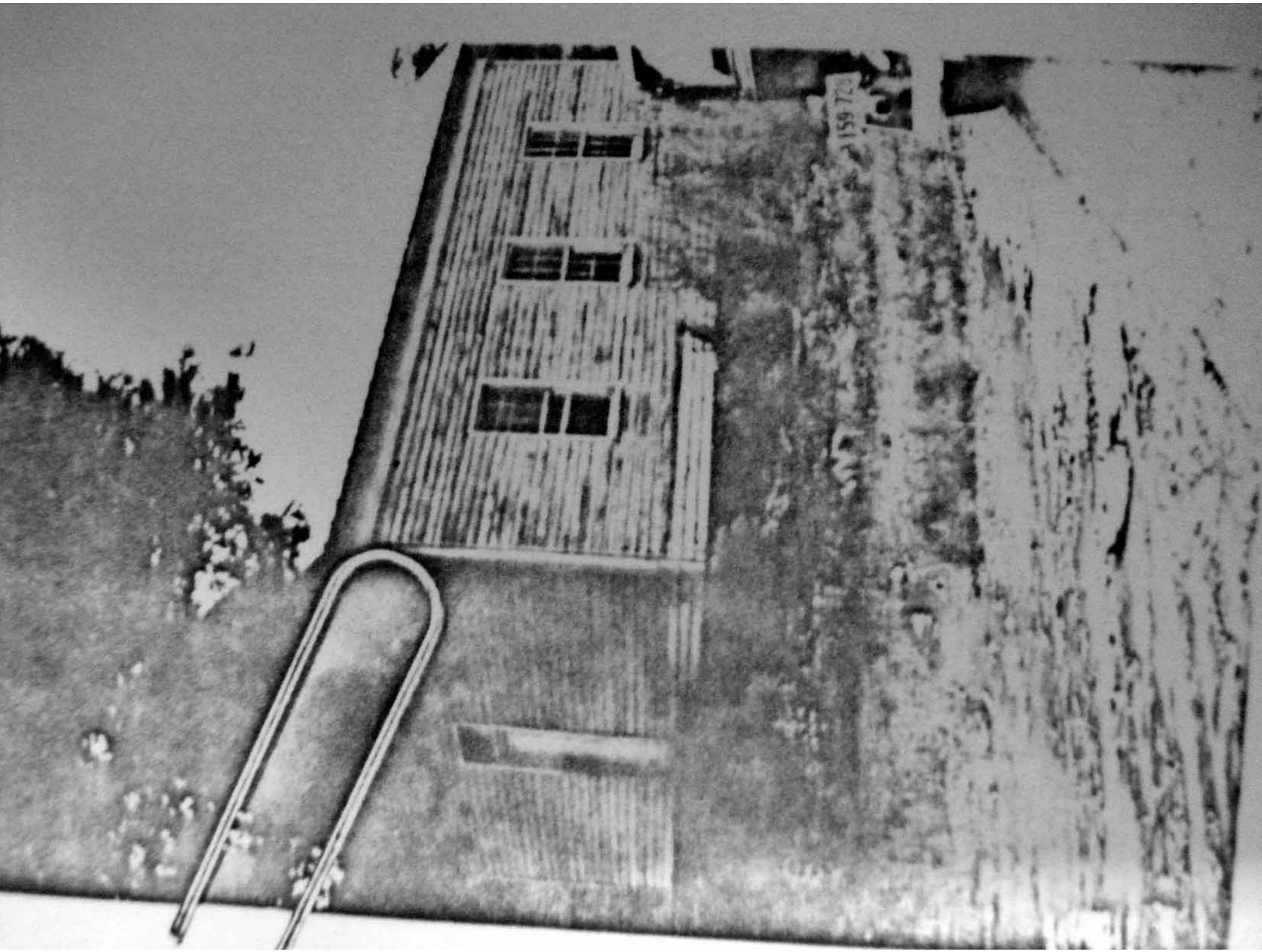
Left-
Beaver Creek
Church

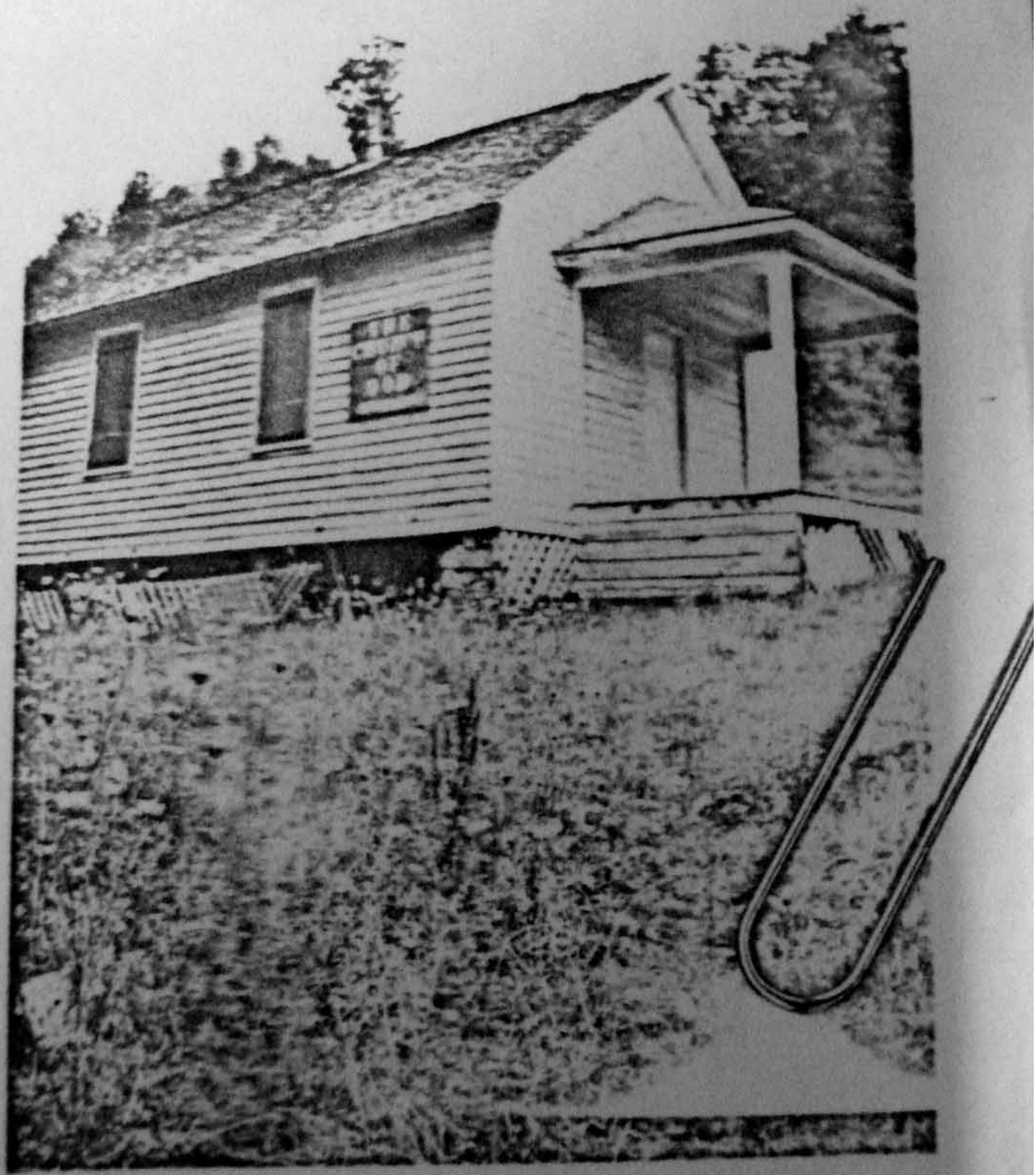
Right-
Hand carved stones in the Beaver Creek cemetery, site of old log church. These stones are to members of the Poage family who first owned this land.





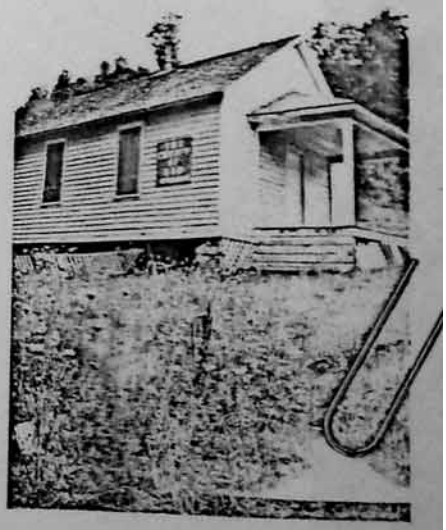






Left-
Browns Creek
Church

Right-
Fairview



Clawson Church

The Cummings Creek school house which was used as a place of worship by the Cummings Creek M. P. clas until it was bought by the Church of God.